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Tantia University

Policy title	Policy on Minimisation of Plastic and Disposable Items
Effective date	11-02-2025
Next scheduled review	Three years after the effective date, or earlier if applicable rules change

The University recognizes that excessive consumption of plastic and disposable products contributes to environmental pollution, resource depletion, waste generation, and adverse impacts on ecosystems. The University is committed to creating a sustainable campus by reducing the use of plastics and disposable items and promoting reusable, recyclable, and environmentally responsible alternatives.

Objectives

The objectives of this policy are to:

- Reduce the consumption of plastic products, particularly single-use plastics.
- Minimise the use of disposable products intended for one-time use.
- Promote reusable, recyclable, biodegradable, and compostable alternatives.
- Reduce campus waste generation and environmental impacts.
- Integrate sustainability considerations into procurement and operational practices.
- Extend these commitments to all outsourced service providers, vendors, and suppliers working with the University.

Scope

This policy applies to:

- Students
- Faculty members
- Administrative staff
- Contractual employees
- Visitors
- Vendors and service providers

The policy covers all University facilities, including:

- Academic and administrative buildings
- Laboratories and research facilities

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- Hostels and residential facilities
- Cafeterias and dining areas
- Event venues and auditoriums
- Outdoor campus spaces

The policy shall also apply to all outsourced contractors, caterers, housekeeping agencies, maintenance providers, suppliers, and procurement partners engaged by the University.

Definitions

Plastic Use Minimisation

Actions and measures aimed at reducing the consumption of plastic materials, especially single-use plastics such as bags, bottles, straws, packaging materials, wrappers, cups, plates, and cutlery.

Disposable Items

Products designed for one-time use before disposal, including paper and plastic cups, plates, cutlery, food containers, promotional materials, packaging products, and similar consumables.

Reusable Alternatives

Durable products intended for repeated use, including steel bottles, ceramic cups, glassware, metal cutlery, cloth bags, reusable containers, and washable dining utensils.

Plastic Use Minimisation Measures

The University shall progressively eliminate avoidable single-use plastic products from campus operations.

The University will:

1. Prohibit or phase out single-use plastic bags, straws, cups, plates, stirrers, cutlery, plastic bottles, thermocol (Styrofoam), and similar products wherever feasible.
2. Encourage the use of refillable water bottles and install or maintain drinking water refill stations across the campus.
3. Restrict the procurement and distribution of unnecessary plastic packaging materials.
4. Promote sustainable alternatives such as cloth, paper, bamboo, metal, glass, and biodegradable materials.
5. Encourage campus vendors and service providers to adopt environmentally friendly packaging solutions.

Minimisation of Disposable Items

The University is committed to reducing the dependence on all forms of disposable products.

To achieve this objective, the University shall:

1. Use reusable crockery, cutlery, glassware, and serving equipment during meetings, conferences, workshops, and campus events.

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2. Permit disposable products only where health, safety, hygiene, or operational requirements make reusable alternatives impractical.
3. Promote digital communication, e-notices, electronic brochures, and paperless administrative processes.
4. Encourage students and staff to carry reusable water bottles, cups, lunch boxes, and shopping bags.
5. Support initiatives that reduce unnecessary promotional products and event giveaways.

Sustainable Procurement

The University's procurement processes shall support the reduction of plastics and disposable products by:

1. Giving preference to products with minimal packaging.
2. Prioritizing recyclable, reusable, biodegradable, or compostable alternatives.
3. Encouraging suppliers to reduce plastic content in packaging and product delivery.
4. Including environmental sustainability criteria in procurement decisions and tender evaluations.
5. Promoting the purchase of durable products with longer service lives.

Responsibilities of Outsourced Service Providers

All outsourced service providers operating on campus shall comply with this policy.

Service providers shall:

- Minimise the use of single-use plastic products.
- Use environmentally responsible packaging wherever possible.
- Avoid the distribution of plastic straws, disposable cutlery, and plastic bags.
- Promote reusable alternatives within their operations.
- Cooperate with University sustainability initiatives and audits.

Compliance with this policy shall form part of contractual obligations and service-level expectations.

Responsibilities of Suppliers

Suppliers and contractors providing goods and services to the University shall:

- Reduce excessive plastic packaging.
- Avoid unnecessary disposable materials.
- Provide sustainable alternatives wherever feasible.

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- Support recycling and waste minimisation initiatives.
- Comply with applicable environmental regulations and University sustainability requirements.

Preference may be given to suppliers demonstrating strong environmental performance and sustainable business practices.

Awareness and Capacity Building

The University shall promote awareness regarding plastic reduction and sustainable consumption through:

- Orientation programmes
- Workshops and training sessions
- Awareness campaigns
- Green campus initiatives
- Signage and communication materials
- Student-led sustainability activities

The University encourages every member of the campus community to contribute towards reducing plastic waste and promoting responsible consumption practices.

Monitoring and Reporting

The University shall periodically monitor the implementation of this policy through:

- Procurement records
- Campus inspections
- Waste audits
- Vendor compliance reviews
- Sustainability performance assessments

Relevant departments shall maintain records of plastic reduction initiatives and identify opportunities for continuous improvement.

Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed every three years or earlier if required by Changes in legal or regulatory requirements.

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